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**PATENT APPLICATION**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date October 29, 2002

In re the Application of

Tatsuo SATO

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/731,669

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: December 8, 2000

Docket No.: 108079

For: GAS REPLACEMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND  
EXPOSURE METHOD AND APPARATUS**LARGE ENTITY PETITION FOR 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> EXTENSION  
OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) AND  
TRANSMITTAL OF FEE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.17**Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a response to the outstanding Official Action in the above-identified patent application. The shortened statutory period having expired July 29, 2002, an extension of time for a period of 3 months is hereby requested. Attached hereto is our Check No. 135783 in the amount of \$920.00 in payment for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Extension fee for response within first month pursuant to §1.136(a) (\$110.00)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Extension fee for response within second month pursuant to §1.136(a) (\$400.00)  
XX Extension fee for response within third month pursuant to §1.136(a) (\$920.00)

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 15-0461. Two copies of this petition are enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MAC:KLK/dmw

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